

7/29/65

The Honorable H. A. Abernethy
Commissioner, Federal Supply Service
General Services Administration
18th and "F" Streets, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20405

Dear Commissioner Abernethy:

The Central Intelligence Agency has learned that General Services Administration has under consideration a proposal to establish a single awards contract for security cabinets to replace the multiple awards contract now in effect.

As we made known previously, through our representative on the Interagency Advisory Committee on Security Equipment, this Agency is opposed to single source awards in the vital field of security cabinets. It is our feeling that much of the progress which has been made over the past several years in the development of better security cabinets is directly attributable to the present practice of multiple awards contracts. Further, the limiting of supply availability to a single source could result in the non-availability of security containers for an indefinite period, if the manufacturing capability of the single source was interrupted for any reason. This, of course, would have an adverse effect on the security program of this Agency.

In view of the security considerations involved, it would be reassuring to know that the multiple contract awards for security cabinets will remain in effect so that the agencies of the Government, involved in the handling of sensitive security information, will be assured of the continued availability of security cabinets of the highest quality and security.

Howard S. Odorn
Director of Security

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